THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Electricity Authority after detailed discussion with NTPC and all beneficiary SEBs including Rajasthan SEB has since finalised the tariff of NTPC gas based power stations. CEA has now submitted its recommendations to the Ministry of Power for issue of the Notification.

Wasteland Development by Private Sector

1771. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to associate Private Sector in wasteland development;

(b) if so, the details and the terms and conditions laid down for the joint venture;

(c) whether any suggestions/schemes have been received by the Government from the Private Sector for development of wasteland; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). From 1994-95 a Central Sector Scheme—Investment Promotional Scheme for Development of Non-Forest Wastelands (IFS) is under implementation. This Scheme has provision for involving private sector in the development of wastelands. The IFS is designed to facilitate/attract/channelise/mobilise resources from financial institutions, banks, corporate bodies including user industries and other entrepreneurs for development of wastelands in non-forest areas belonging to Central and State Governments, Panchayats, village communities, private farmers, etc.

Under the IPS, promotional subsidy/grant is provided subject to a maximum of Rs. 25.00 lakhs or 25% of the total cost of the project as approved and firmed up by the financial institutions/banks, whichever is less. Besides, project formulation assistance for preparation of bankable/viable projects at the rate of 1% of project cost is admissible to generate projects.

(c) and (d). Some of the important suggestions made, include (i) the district-wise information on wastelands may be made available at State/district level, (ii) wide publicity should be given and awareness campaign raised vigorously on wastelands development, (iii) allotment of wastelands to Private Sector on lease basis which falls exclusively under the purview of State Governments.

Kandla-Bhatinda Project

1772. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the IOC has claimed over a hundred crore damages from the Skodaexport for delay in the execution of Kandla-Bhatinda product pipeline and that Skoda has given a counter claim for hampering the project implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the factual position; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to solve the controversy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). Due to uncertainty in the execution of balance jobs of Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline by the composite works contractor M/s. Skodaexport Co. Ltd., the bank guarantees of M/s. Skodaexport have been invoked by IOC for non-performance and recovery of unadjusted advances towards mobilisation and partial commissioning for getting the job done at the risk and cost of the contractor as per the terms of the contract.

[Translation]

Losses in Transmission and Distribution of Electricity

1773. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the losses of electricity in its distribution by the various State Electricity Boards in the country is more than that of other countries of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of electricity losses in transmission and distribution by each electricity board;

(d) the estimated average loss of electricity in distribution and transmission in other developed countries; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to check these transmission and distribution losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The transmission and distribution losses in the country have been 21.13% during 1994-95 and are higher than most of the other countries of the world. Statements I and II indicating the % age of T and D losses in the developed and developing countries are enclosed.

(c) The statement showing % age T and D losses for the SEB's/EDs for the year 1990-91 to 1994-95 is enclosed in the Statement-III.